Olive Ridleys Turtles

2822. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC and OIL have major off-shore oil banks off the Orissa coast land, which happens to be on the path being traversed by millions of Olive Ridleys for decades to come to Gahirmatha and lay eggs every year, as reported in the Economic Times of 6th March, 2002;

(b) whether NGOs involved in nature conservation have written to Government, explaining the delicate nature of the predicament; and

(c) if so, what action Government, propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Plantation programme

2823. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of plantation programmes being implemented in different parts of the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) the progress and achievements made so far;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to fulfil the target for those programmes effectively; and